

BUSH FIRE SMOKE PROCEDURE

The National Law and National Quality Standard require that early childhood education and care services ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from foreseeable risk of harm, injury and infection, including responding to potential bush fire risks. (National Quality Standard 2.3.2). The Service is responsible for the preparedness and safety of children and employees in relation to bushfires and reducing children's exposure to smoke.

As bushfire smoke can affect children's health and safety, it is critically important to implement procedures to reduce smoke exposure. This procedure works in conjunction with the *Bushfire Policy*, and *Emergency Evacuation Policy* to assist the Service manage the challenges from bushfires and reducing the risk of smoke inhalation.

Bushfire smoke contains fine particles of debris and gases known to cause health effects. Symptoms may include:

- itchy/burning eyes
- runny nose
- shortness of breath
- cough
- throat irritation and
- may trigger a more severe response such as an asthma attack.

*Education and Care Services National Law or Regulations (R.12,51, 89, 93,97, 98) NQS QA 2: Children's Health and Safety
NQS QA 7: Governance and Leadership. Related Policy: Bush Fire Policy, Emergency Evacuation Policy*

BUSH FIRE SMOKE		
1	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will review and update the Service's <i>Emergency Management Plan</i> (EMP) each year to ensure appropriate response strategies are in place	
2	The Director/Nominated Supervisor will communicate with staff and families about specific information and arrangements to reduce the danger of smoke exposure and inhalation	
3	Educators will clearly identify children who have diagnosed asthma	
4	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will ensure <i>Asthma Action Plans</i> for each child are up to date, completed by the child's GP and signed by parents	
5	Educators will ensure parents leave the child's reliever medication and spacer with staff each day and check that it is in-date	

6	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will check the contents of your First Aid Kit for emergency asthma equipment- (Ventolin inhaler)																						
7	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will ensure all staff maintain awareness of asthma management strategies and at all times a staff member with current emergency asthma management and emergency anaphylaxis management training is available at the Service																						
8	Educators will monitor air quality and follow health messages by accessing the following website: https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/current-air-quality																						
9	<p>Educators will display the current air quality on the parent notice board for viewing</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Air Quality Index (AQI)</th><th>Colour indicator</th><th>What does it mean?</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Very good 0-33</td><td>Blue</td><td>Enjoy normal activities.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Good 34-66</td><td>Green</td><td>Enjoy normal activities.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fair 67-99</td><td>Yellow</td><td>People unusually sensitive to air pollution should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Others are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Poor 100-149</td><td>Orange</td><td>Sensitive groups should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Very poor 150-200</td><td>Pink</td><td>Sensitive groups should avoid strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hazardous 200+</td><td>Red</td><td>Sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor activities. Other adults should avoid strenuous outdoor activities.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Air Quality Index (AQI)	Colour indicator	What does it mean?	Very good 0-33	Blue	Enjoy normal activities.	Good 34-66	Green	Enjoy normal activities.	Fair 67-99	Yellow	People unusually sensitive to air pollution should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Others are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.	Poor 100-149	Orange	Sensitive groups should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.	Very poor 150-200	Pink	Sensitive groups should avoid strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities.	Hazardous 200+	Red	Sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor activities. Other adults should avoid strenuous outdoor activities.	
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10	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will conduct a risk assessment to identify potential harm or hazards due to poor air quality																						
11	If the day is visibly smoky, educators will set up indoor activities and experiences for children																						
12	Educators will keep doors and windows closed during smoky periods. If the air conditioner is in use, ensure it is not drawing in air from outside																						
13	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will use an air purifier with a high efficiency particle air (HEPA) filter to reduce the number of fine particles indoors																						
14	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will check weather strips to seal gaps around doors and windows to prevent air leaks and to prevent smoke and dust from entering the buildings																						
15	If a child with asthma shows signs of breathing difficulty (wheeze, persistent cough) educators will follow their written asthma management plan and contact parents and monitor them closely. If symptoms persist, or worsen, call an ambulance on 000 immediately																						

16	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will continue to monitor fire ratings through relevant authorities on a daily or hourly basis- Fires Near Me app (NSW Rural Fire Service); or Vic Emergency app (CFA Emergency services) for information about fires within the area.	
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